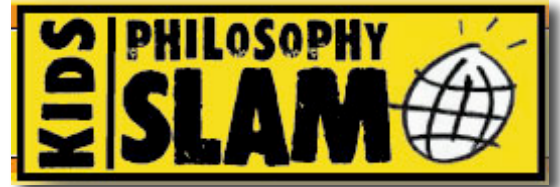


"The Mission of the Kids Philosophy Slam is to give kids a voice and to inspire kids to think by unlocking their intellectual and creative potential through a unique and powerful philosophical forum."



This national competition is designed to make philosophy accessible and fun for kids of all ages and abilities. Its purpose is to promote a philosophical dialogue between kids and adults, and a greater awareness of philosophy and education in everyday life.

What is philosophy? Philosophy is the study of the basic truths and ideas about the universe, the system of ideas and principles that govern an individual's life, or a personal set of opinions about life and the world. Since everyone has life experiences, the Kids Philosophy Slam asks kids to write, create poetry, music or artwork regarding a philosophical question posted each year.

2012 Topic:
What is the meaning of life?

How to participate:

1. **Label each entry** with the student's name, age, grade, teacher, school, school address, phone number and teacher email address.
2. **For essays, prose, poetry, etc.** put this information on the **TOP FRONT of the page**.
3. **For artwork** (Size limit: 8½ by 11 in.), put information on the **BACK of artwork only**.

Due In Class, Friday, January 27, 2012

Suggestions for approaching the topic:

- What is meaningful or valuable in my life?
- How do I define valuable, or what is important to me?
- Can my definition of valuable be universally applied to everyone?
- Why is this person, place, or thing valuable and important?
- Why is life special?
- What makes life a lot of fun?
- Life is difficult, but.... [or] Life is beautiful, but....
- At the end of my life, I hope....
- Life sometimes seems complicated, because.... [or] Life sometimes seems simple, because....

6th Grade — 8th Grade

- This age category may write prose, poetry, create a song or musical composition, or write an essay of 500 words or less, answering the philosophical question.
- Essays may be based upon personal experiences, observations or through research and historical context. Musical compositions may be in written form, or recorded and submitted by CD.
- Judging will be based on the following criteria: Originality and creativity, strength of philosophical argument, spelling and grammar. A national winner will be chosen from each grade. A national musical winner will also be selected.

For more information, please visit the website <http://www.philosophyslam.org/>. If you use resources when preparing your entry, be sure to cite your sources using the format specified in the "Buckley Style Guide."